Tax relief package

659. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a bid to address the middle class criticism of the 2002 Budget, the Finance Minister has asked senior officials of the Department of Revenue to work out a package of tax breaks; and

(b) if so, what is the progress in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Performance of NABARD

†660. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in various States, especially in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the shortcomings if any, detected in the implementation of the States/Projects; and

(d) the details of the projects sanctioned during the last three years alongwith their locations and the State-wise number of such projects especially the ones in Himachal Pradesh which are yet to be sanctioned/ approved by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The activities of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are monitored by Government on an on-going basis. An indepth review of its operations is conducted by its Board of Directors comprising amongst others, senior representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Rural Development and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.